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ABSTRACT

This book presents a broad vision of the moral foundations of teacher professionalism by linking the professional role of the teacher, the moral demands it makes, and the practical arts of teaching to the institution of education and its contemporary problems. The moral foundations of teaching are expressed in four dimensions of professionalism--community, knowledge, accountability, and ideals. Following an introduction, the volume is divided into eight chapters. The first chapter sets the stage by introducing three classroom teachers who serve as examples throughout the book. Chapter 2 explains some of the difficulties for a single profession split three ways (academic, school-based practitioner, and administrator) and discusses the development of the professional community. In chapter 3 a discussion of the professional community moves to the continuing professional development of teachers and the place of research. Chapter 4 deals with professional expertise commencing with the moral character of teacher professionalism. Chapter 5 explains why professional expertise is treated as a matter of professional virtue. Chapter 6 focuses on accountability. In chapter 7 it is argued that teaching is an ideal of service to developing persons that demands constant change and improvement. The final chapter places this account of teacher professionalism in a contemporary context. (Contains approximately 260 references.) (LL)

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